PROGRAM CHARTER
FOR
MARINE OPERATIONS and MAINTENANCE
Program Manager: Elizabeth White
Fleet Services Sub-goal Team Lead: Tajr Hull

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Marine Operations and Maintenance Program, a mission support program in the Fleet Services Sub-Goal, operates, maintains and charters ships to meet the at-sea data collection requirements of NOAA's Mission Goals using safe, economical, and productive government and commercial ships with the required range, capabilities, berthing space, mission equipment, sea keeping ability and adequate shore side support. Additionally, the Marine Operations and Maintenance Program (1) provides educated and trained uniformed commissioned officers to NOAA Programs, (2) manages the NOAA Dive program, administers (3) the Small Boat Safety program and (4) the Teacher at Sea / Teacher in the Air programs.

Policy and procedure formulation, plans and budget development, and execution of annual allocation plans are conducted by Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO) personnel primarily located in Silver Spring, MD, Norfolk, VA, and Seattle, WA.

Details of the capabilities and organization of OMAO and the Marine Operation Center may be found at www.omao.noaa.gov and www.moc.noaa.gov .

2. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

A. **Requirement Drivers**:

- 33USC Chapter 17 "National Ocean Survey" Section 883i authorizes NOAA to "…acquire, construct, maintain and operate ships…"
- 33USC Chapter 17 Section 892 authorizes NOAA to "…lease…and operate vessels, equipment, and technologies necessary to ensure safe navigation and maintain operational expertise in hydrographic data acquisition and hydrographic services…."
- 16USC Chapters 31 "Marine Mammal Protection", 35 "Endangered Species", and 38 "Fishery Conservation and Management" make NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service responsible for the management and conservation of living marine resources within the United States' Exclusive Economic Zone. The long-term collection of data at-sea in support of this effort requires the dedicated and technologically sophisticated vessels designed, constructed and

modernized by the Fleet Replacement Program.

- 15USC Chapter 9 "National Weather Service" requires NOAA's National Weather Service to forecast the weather, issue storm warnings, report temperature and rain-fall conditions, and take meteorological observations necessary to establish and record the climatic conditions of the United States.
- 33USC Chapter 43 "NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps" authorizes and defines the NOAA Corps.
- Department of Commerce Operations Order 25-5 requires OMAO to develop the plans and administer the use, operation, maintenance, and upgrade of NOAA ships, small craft, and associated equipment and facilities; administer the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps; coordinate chartering of non-NOAA vessels; and administer the NOAA dive and small boat safety programs.
- NOAA's Strategic Plan identifies NOAA ships as an element of its Mission Support Goal and one of the components of "…the backbone of the global Earth observing system…."

B. **Mission Requirement:**

- Operate, maintain and charter ships to safely and efficiently meet the at-sea data collection requirements of NOAA's Mission Goals and Line Offices, incorporating emerging data acquisition technologies while providing a specialized professional team responsive to NOAA programs.

3. LINKS TO THE NOAA STRATEGIC PLAN

A. **Goal Outcome:** The Marine Operations and Maintenance Program supports the Mission Support outcome, "Ship, aircraft, and satellite programs that ensure continuous observation of critical environmental conditions".

B. **Goal Performance Objective**: The Marine Operations and Maintenance Program supports the Mission Support performance objective, "Improve efficiency and performance of financial, administrative, workforce management, acquisition, and other support transactions and services."

C. **Goal Strategy**: The Marine Operations and Maintenance Program employs the Mission Support strategy "Use effective and efficient approaches to meet NOAA requirements for ship and aircraft support."

4. PROGRAM OUTCOME: A mission-ready fleet of ships and support services that safely meet NOAA's at-sea functional and operational data collection requirements.

5. PROGRAM ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: This program is established and managed with the procedures established in the NOAA Business Operations Manual (BOM). Responsibilities of the Program Manager are described in the BOM. Responsibilities of other

major participants are summarized below.

A. **Participating Line Office, Staff Office, and Council Responsibilities**:

1. OMAO is responsible for the operation and maintenance of NOAA's fleet of ships to safely and efficiently meet the at-sea data collection requirements of NOAA's Mission Goals and Line Offices, and management of the personnel system of NOAA Commissioned Officers as well as the administration of the Dive, Small Boat Safety, and the Teacher at Sea / Teacher in the Air programs.
    a. NOAA's Commissioned Personnel Center is responsible for recruiting, developing and retaining a commissioned officer workforce with the competencies to carry out NOAA's mission; managing diversity; and supporting strategic management of human capital.
2. All of NOAA's line offices, through their associated Mission Goal Programs, are responsible for the identification of at-sea data collection requirements, the staffing of scientific billets at sea, data processing, analysis and publication.
3. NOAA's Fleet Council approves the annual ship allocation plans and provides guidance to all of NOAA's Programs regarding platform support.
4. NOAA's Observing Systems Council identifies gaps in NOAA observation systems which require at-sea data collection assets.
5. NOAA's Ocean Council is responsible for coordinating ocean activities across NOAA; proposing priorities and investment strategies for ocean-related initiatives; and coordinating NOAA's participation in the Interagency Committee on Ocean Science and Resource Management Integration (ICOSRMI). The NOC is also authorized to develop a strategy and serve as the agency focal point for responding to and implementing the recommendations of the President's Ocean Action Plan and recommendations of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy.
6. NOAA's Research Council provides corporate oversight and develops policy to ensure that NOAA research activities are of the highest scientific quality, meet long-range societal needs, take advantage of emerging scientific and technological opportunities, shape a forward-looking research agenda, and are accomplished in an efficient and cost effective manner. Research Council recommendations affect vessel allocation and the research that is conducted at sea.
7. NOAA's Education Council serves as a forum in NOAA for the discussion of ideas and proposals for NOAA-wide education and outreach activities and priorities and makes recommendations to NOAA management on all aspects of NOAA's educational activities and conducts NOAA ship school naming competitions.
8. NOAA's Safety Council supports the effective implementation of the NOAA

Safety Policy for all employees. The Marine Operations and Maintenance Program works closely with the Safety Council in developing and promulgating safety policy for all NOAA and outsourced vessels and small boats.

9. NOAA's Workforce Management Office is responsible for recruiting, developing, and retaining a workforce with the competencies necessary to carry out NOAA's mission; managing diversity; and supporting strategic management of human capital.
10. NOAA's General Counsel reviews contractual documentation, provides guidance in the development and execution of competitive source selection criteria and assists in the development of Memoranda of Understanding and Individual Support Agreements as necessary to meet its operational requirements with agency partners. Assistance is provided to ensure compliance with applicable environmental laws and regulations related to the disposal of NOAA's vessels.
11. NOAA's Facilities Program assists in ship homeport development and maintenance.
12. NOAA's Information Technology Services Program acquires and implements information technology infrastructure that assures NOAA missions are able to adequately and securely deliver their data products.

B. **External Agency/Organization Responsibilities:**

1. University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System provides additional vessels for NOAA's at-sea data collection requirements in collaboration with OMAO and leased berthing space for NOAA's ships.
2. U.S. Coast Guard provides temporary berthing for NOAA's ships, ship time (e.g. buoy services, chartered time), inspection of NOAA chartered commercial vessels, and is responsible for the processing of NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps payroll data.
3. The U.S. Merchant Marine Academy is responsible for providing training facilities and instructors in support of NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps maritime education.
4. The U.S. Public Health Service provides medical officers to staff NOAA Headquarters and ships.
5. The International Organization of Masters, Mates & Pilots, the Marine Engineers' Benevolent Association, the National Maritime Union, and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers assist OMAO in establishing basic understanding relative to labor management policies / practices.

6. END USERS OR BENEFICIARIES OF PROGRAM

The Marine Operations and Maintenance Program operates, maintains and charters ships, trains and certifies NOAA divers, and supports remote and advanced diving projects to meet the at-sea data collection requirements of NOAA's Mission Goals and Line Offices. NOAA ships and boats provide measurements and observations that:

- Support healthy and productive coastal marine ecosystems;
- Support a predictive understanding of the global climate system;
- Reduce loss of life, injury, and damage to the economy due to weather related events;
- Support safe, secure, efficient, and seamless movement of goods in the U.S. marine transportation system.

NOAA Mission Goal Programs which have at-sea data collection requirements include:

- Climate and Ecosystems
- Climate Forcing
- Climate Observations and Analysis
- Climate Predictions and Projections
- Emergency Response
- Geodesy
- Marine Transportation Systems
- Coastal and Marine Resources
- Coral Reef Conservation
- Ecosystem Observations
- Ecosystem Research
- Habitat
- Protected Species
- Air Quality
- Coast, Estuaries and Oceans
- Science, Technology and Infusion
- Tsunami
- Satellite Services
- Homeland Security

Ultimately, the data collected by these programs supports the Nation's economy and public

well-being.

The Teacher at Sea and Teacher in the Air programs promote environmental literacy and inspire America's youth to pursue scientific and technical careers.